

prosperity. The resiliency and adaptability shown by small businesses in past recessions demonstrate their capability to meet the challenges standing in their way and emerge stronger than ever. America's small businesses will drive the economic recovery from this downturn and our economy will emerge stronger than ever. Times may be tough, but America's entrepreneurial spirit is tougher.

To recognize the monumental achievements of our nation's small firms, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared May 17–23 as the 46th Annual National Small Business Week. The House Small Business Committee is celebrating all our country's hard-working entrepreneurs by saluting the Heroes of Small Business, those men and women who have shown the strength, leadership, and resourcefulness that keeps our economy moving forward.

I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing and thanking Ms. Barbara McClain for her tremendous accomplishments on behalf of small businesses. Ms. McClain is owner and president of McClain Contracting Company, Inc., a firm that has provided a range of services to military bases and other federal installations. Ms. McClain began her career as a bookkeeper and payroll clerk in 1968, and worked for several firms before incorporating her own business in 1990 selling ATVs and watercraft. After limited success in this venture, McClain transformed the business and became a licensed construction company, receiving a SBA certification as a HubZone and 8(a) firm in September 2005.

With the program's assistance, McClain Contracting prospered by expanding its work to the federal level. The company has been awarded over \$13 million in contracts by Kessler Air Force Base and performed work for other military and veteran-service facilities in Mississippi. Having gained a reputation for quality work, McClain Contracting is currently seeking to expand its services throughout the Southeast region.

Madam Speaker, Ms. McClain has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, she will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share her story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring her for the extraordinary work she has done for the small business economy. Her efforts demonstrate that if given the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economy from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.

PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations on the one year anniversary of President Ma of Taiwan. President Ma has accomplished much during his tenure to reduce the tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

I want to shed light on the third Chiang-Chen talks that occurred last month to high-light my point.

The third Chiang-Chen Talks, which took place in Nanjing, brought together top officials from both sides of the Taiwan straits to discuss issues that are of mutual benefit to Taiwan and China. Three important agreements were signed at these talks.

The "Agreement on Joint Cross-Strait Crime-fighting and Mutual Judicial Assistance" will improve cooperation between the two sides with respects to criminal investigations by sharing information and lending other law enforcement assistance as needed.

Secondly, the "Cross Strait Financial Cooperation Agreement" will help improve monetary exchanges and may lead to Taiwan opening financial institutions on the mainland.

Lastly, a "Supplementary Agreement on Cross-Strait Air Transport" was signed to increase the number of daily flights, both passenger and cargo, between Taiwan and China plus increase the number of airports by which these flights will depart.

In addition to these three agreements, China has agreed to encourage investments from the mainland into Taiwan ventures.

All of these important agreements would not have been possible without President Ma's leadership and courage. Again, congratulations to President Ma and both countries on each side of the Taiwan Strait.

HONORING ANDREA MACKENZIE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I, along with my colleague Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, rise today to honor a dedicated and beloved advocate for preserving agriculture and the environment in Sonoma County, California. Andrea Mackenzie is leaving the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and we celebrate her 12 productive years, especially the last eight years as General Manager.

Andrea was born in upstate New York and grew up in Los Angeles. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Natural Resources from the University of California at Los Angeles.

With her love of both the coast and the rugged mountains of the High Sierra, it is no surprise that Andrea worked for over 25 years in land use and conservation-related positions, including the East Bay and San Francisco where she began to develop a focus on collaborative public/private projects and regional approaches. She also loves walkable communities, old barns, hiking and kayaking, country rock, and nature writers.

Andrea first served the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District as project manager for the strategic conservation plan update, creating documents that have become models for other public land conservation agencies. In 2000, she was appointed General Manager by the Board of Supervisors.

The mission of the District is to "permanently protect the diverse agricultural, natural resource and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations." Fund-

ed by a quarter-cent sales tax, it is the only such district in the state of California and is overwhelmingly supported by Sonoma County's residents.

Andrea helped direct the 2006 campaign to renew the sales tax, which passed overwhelmingly. Voters value the organization's mission and its programs including: matching grants to partner with local cities and agencies for land acquisition, preservation and enhancement; stewardship in managing these lands and various easements to protect them, as well as to allow for public access; land leases to local growers; and public and educational outings, including a focus on underserved populations. Andrea has played a key role in developing these programs as well as increasing the amount of open space from 25,000 acres to 75,000 acres (including 33,000 acres of farmland).

In 2007, in testament to Andrea's management, the District was selected for the National Leadership in Conservation Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Trust for Public Land in Washington, D.C. She was also one of 36 Fellows selected to participate in the National Conservation Leadership Institute program, is a member of the Executive Committee and future President of the Bay Area Open Space Council and served on both the Urban Rural Roundtable (formed by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom to create a Bay Area Regional Food System) and on the Statewide Watershed Advisory Committee.

Madam Speaker, Andrea Mackenzie's combination of visionary and practical leadership has made the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District a vital player in our community. Sonoma County could have gone the way of other growing counties in California with sprawl from end to end. Instead, it remains blessed with green open space, productive agriculture, and many unique and intact ecosystems. We thank her for her great contributions to our children's natural inheritance and wish her luck in her new position where she will be continuing her good work closer to her family.

HONORING MARK A. BANCROFT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mark A. Bancroft, President of Bancroft Contracting Corporation in South Paris, Maine.

Mr. Bancroft knows the meaning of dedication. He started working for his father's company, Bancroft Contracting Corporation, at the age of fourteen. He spent weekends, holidays, and school vacations learning the skills necessary to succeed in his trade. After successfully completing the Construction Management Technology program at the University of Maine, Mr. Bancroft returned to work for his father full time.

In the years following the completion of his degree, Mr. Bancroft worked as a project manager, human resources manager, operations manager, Vice President of Operations, and President for Bancroft Contracting Company. In 2004, he became owner and CEO. Today,